

D-765
Roland Webster House
Hurlock
1917-18
Private

The Roland Webster house is one of the most architecturally prominent dwellings in the town of Hurlock. Built in 1917-18 by canning company owner Roland Webster and his wife Blanche Davis, the two-and-a-half story, four-bay, four-square shingled frame house was assembled in the best traditions of early twentieth century design with its four-square plan extended by a neoclassical porch that includes a porte cochere on its north end. Adding further architectural definition to the blockish exterior are large hip roofed dormers that mark each face of the steeply pitched pyramidal roof. Joining the house on the lot is a contemporary single-story hip roofed garage also sheathed with wood shingles.

Roland Webster, a principal in the Roland Webster & Co. canning operation (1919-1925) in Hurlock, financed this sizable frame house in 1917-18. He had acquired to adjacent lots on South Main Street in 1910-11. After the closing of the canning company in 1925, the property was put up for public auction and sold to Olin R. Higgins, a produce broker and later state senator (1935-37) for \$6,550 in September 1926. He and/or his wife Kate Woolen, married in 1913, maintained ownership of the Webster house until 1970.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of

Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-765

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Roland Webster House
other Olin R. Higgins House

2. Location

street and number 301 South Main Street not for publication
city, town Hurlock vicinity
county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Merton W. and Madeline E. Bradley, Jr.
street and number P. O. Box 202 telephone 410-943-3369
city, town Hurlock state MD zip code 21643

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber 166 folio 349
city, town Cambridge tax map 401 tax parcel 308 tax ID number 15-001151

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	2	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic		structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education		objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	2	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	

7. Description

Inventory No. D-765

Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Roland Webster house, also known as the Olin R. Higgins house, is located at 301 South Main Street on the southeast corner of the intersection of South Main and Webster streets in the center of Hurlock, Dorchester County, Maryland. Built around 1917, the two-and-a-half story, four-bay, foursquare frame house is supported on a raised brick foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with wood shingles. The steeply pitched pyramidal roof, marked by large hip roofed dormers, is covered with slate. Stretching across the west (front) of the house is a Colonial Revival columned porch that extends around the north side to incorporate a porte cochere. The roof of the porch is covered with asphalt shingles. Joining the house on the lot is a single-story frame garage also sheathed with wood shingles. The hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The west (main) façade is an asymmetrical four-bay elevation with a side entrance and flanking windows sheltered by the wrap around porch of paired square columns. The porch on the north side incorporates a porte cochere of square columns. The south side of the porch is enclosed. The side entrance, fitted with a glazed door, is framed by sidelights and twelve-over-one sash windows light the first floor. The second story is defined by twelve-over-one sash windows featuring molded window lintels. The windows are flanked by louvered shutters. Stretching across the base of the roof is a wide eave marked by long blocks with ogee molded faces. The steeply pitched pyramidal roof is dominated by a large hip roofed dormer sheathed with slate on the side wall as well as the roof. The west face of the dormer is marked by a four-part series of narrow six-over-one sash windows.

The north side elevation is an asymmetrical façade incorporating the neoclassical porte cochere as well as a side entrance and uneven fenestration of nine-over-one sash windows. An exterior brick stack rises against the house and pierces the eave. The roof is defined by a large hip roofed dormer sheathed with slate and pierced by six-over-one sash windows.

The south side wall is similarly detailed with an asymmetrical fenestration of multi-pane sash windows. Another exterior brick stove chimney rises against the south wall and pierces the roofline. The south slope of the pyramidal roof is defined by a large hip roofed dormer like the other elevations.

Attached to the back of the house is a two-story extension featuring an enclosed second story porch.

The interior was not open for inspection.

Standing behind the house is a single-story, two-bay by two-bay frame garage also built in 1917. The garage faces Webster Street and incorporates two retractable garage doors. The sides

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are marked by six-over-six sash windows. The exterior, like the house, is sheathed with wood shingles, and the hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates 1917

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register☐ Maryland Register☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE

The Roland Webster house is one of the most architecturally prominent dwellings in the town of Hurlock. Built in 1917 by canning company owner Roland Webster, the two-and-a-half story four-bay, four-squared shingled frame house was assembled in the best traditions of early twentieth century design with its four-square plan and neoclassical porch extended to include a porte cochere on the north end. Adding further architectural definition to the blockish exterior are large hip roofed dormers that mark each face of the steeply pitched pyramidal slate roof. Joining the house on the lot is a contemporary single-story hip roofed garage also sheathed with wood shingles.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Roland Webster, a principal in the Roland Webster & Co. canning operation (1919-1925) in Hurlock¹, financed this sizable frame house in 1917. He had acquired two adjacent lots on South Main Street in 1910-11.² After the closing of the canning company in 1925, the property was put up for public auction and sold to Olin R. Higgins, a produce broker and later state senator (1935-37) for \$6,550 in September 1926.³ He and his wife Kate Woolen, married in March 1913, maintained ownership of the Webster house until 1970.⁴

¹ R. Lee Burton, Jr., *Canneries of the Eastern Shore*, Centreville, MD: Tidewater Publishers, 1986, p. 94.

² Dorchester County Land Records, WLR 2/581, 13 October 1910, WLR 3/236, 18 February 1911, Dorchester County Courthouse.

³ Dorchester County Land Record, JFD 18/637, 2 September 1926, Dorchester County Courthouse.

⁴ Dorchester County Land Record, PLC 166/349, 22 September 1970, Dorchester County Courthouse.

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Roland Webster House
301 South Main Street
Hurlock, Maryland

Chain-of-title

Map 401, Parcel 308

PLC 166/349

Katie W. Higgins, widow

to

9.22.1970

Merton W. Bradley, Jr.
Madeline B. Bradley

RSM 107/384

Katie W. Higgins, widow

to

11.25.1957

Sidney R. Higgins
Ruth L. Higgins

Will Book
APM 2/370

Last Will and Testament of Olin R. Higgins

to

1.30.1957

Katie W. Higgins

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JFD 18/637

W. Laird Henry, Jr., Assignee

to

9.2.1926

Olin R. Higgins

Public sale of mortgaged property

\$6,550.00 all that right, title and interest of the said Roland Webster and Blanche Davis Webster...all those two parcels...on the east side of Main Street...being part of the home farm of Joseph B. Andrews...

WLR 3/236

Joseph B. Andrews

to

2.18.1911

Roland Webster

Lot No. 2 \$400.00

WLR 2/581

Edgar F. Bradley

to

10.13.1910

Roland Webster

Lot No. 1 \$500.00

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.
Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1914 and 1923, Library of Congress.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 9,296 square feet

Acreage of historical setting

Quadrangle name Federalsburg, MD Quad.

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

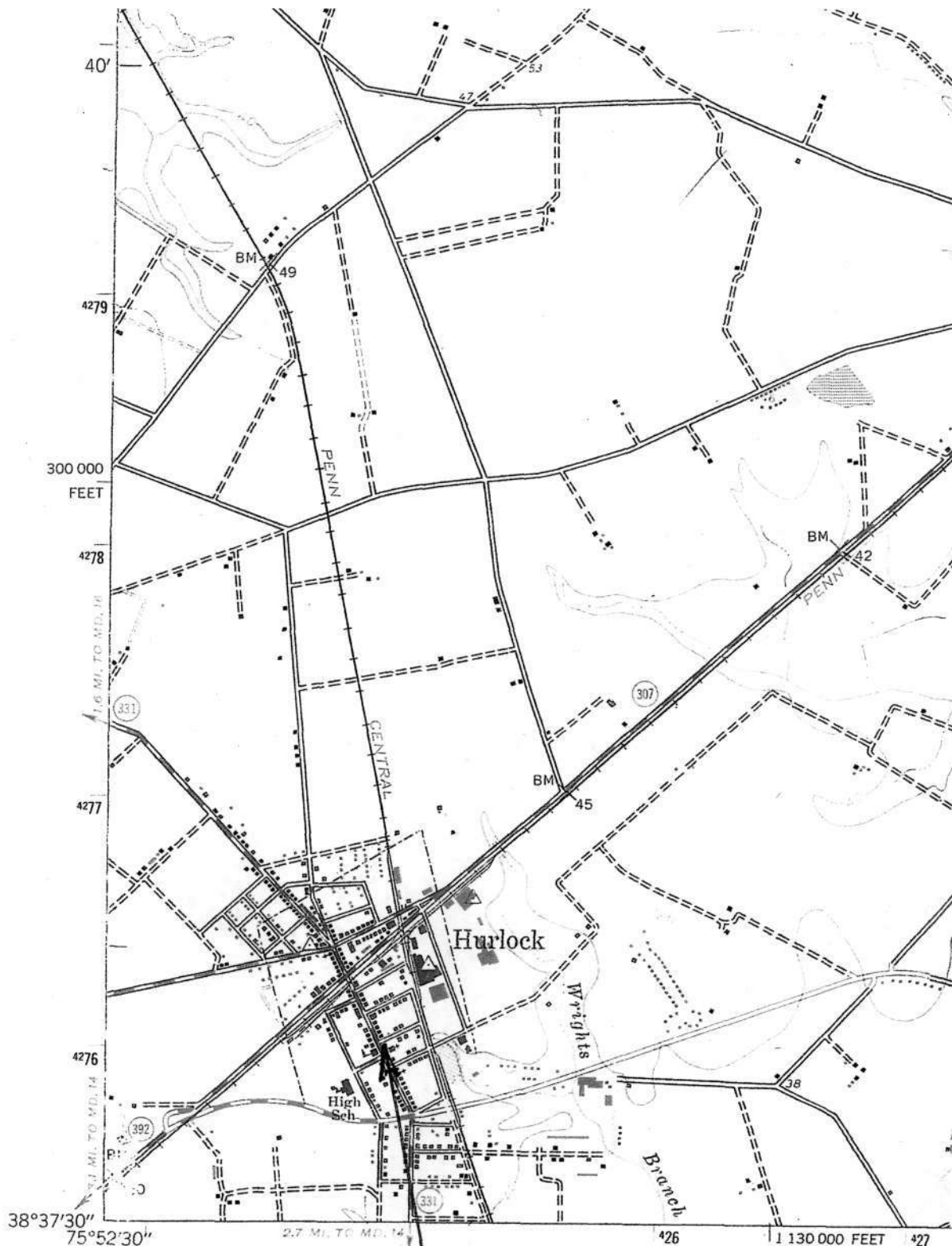
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	7.28.08
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



EAST NEW MARKET
5861 III SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey

Control by USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
and by planetable surveys 1944. Aerial photographs taken 1942

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator
zone 18, shown in blue

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the
aerial photographs taken 1974. This in

MN
GN
0°30' 9 MILS
9° 160 MILS
30°27'30"

D-765, Roland Webster House
301 South Main Street
Federalsburg, MD Quadrangle, 1974



D-765

ROLAND WEBSTER HOUSE

301 SOUTH MAIN ST.

HURLICK, DORCHESTER CO., MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

7/08, PAUL TOWANT, PHOTOGRAPHER



D-765

ROLAND WEBSTER HOUSE

301 S. MAIN ST.

HURLICK, DORCHESTER CO., MD.

WN ELEVATION OF GARAGE

7/08, PAUL TOWART, PITUITARY